Encountering Althusser

Politics and Materialism in Contemporary Radical Thought

Edited by

KATJA DIEFENBACH
SARA R. FARRIS
GAL KIRN
and
PETER D. THOMAS

BLOOMSBURY
LONDON • NEW DELHI • NEW YORK • SYDNEY
Contents

Notes on Contributors viii
Introduction: Encountering Althusser xiii

PART I Aleatory materialism and the philosophy of the encounter 1

1 The hazards of aleatory materialism in the late philosophy of Louis Althusser
   André Tosel 3

2 Rethinking aleatory materialism
   Panagiotis Sotiris 27

3 ‘An immense aspiration to being’: the causality and temporality of the aleatory
   Giorgos Fourtounis 43

4 History as ‘permanent revocation of the accomplished fact’:
   Machiavelli in the last Althusser
   Vittorio Morfino 61

5 The parallax object of Althusser’s materialist philosophy
   Katja Kolšek 75

6 The very essence of the object, the soul of Marxism and other singular things:
   Spinoza in Althusser 1959–67
   G. M. Goshgarian 89

PART II Althusser’s non-contemporaries 113

7 Althusser, Machiavelli and us: between philosophy and politics
   Mikko Lahtinen 115
8 Conjuncture, conflict, war: Machiavelli between Althusser and Foucault (1975–6)
Warren Montag 127

9 Althusser’s last encounter: Gramsci
Peter D. Thomas 137

10 Althusser and Spinoza: the enigma of the subject
Caroline Williams 153

11 Althusser with Deleuze: how to think Spinoza’s immanent cause
Katja Diefenbach 165

12 Althusser and Tronti: the primacy of politics versus the autonomy of the political
Sara R. Farris 185

PART III Thinking production and reproduction 205

13 Louis Althusser and the concept of economy
Ceren Özselçuk 207

14 Althusser and the critique of political economy
Michele Cangiani 225

15 The problem of reproduction: probing the lacunae of Althusser’s theoretical investigations of ideology and ideological state apparatuses
Frieder Otto Wolf 247

16 To think the new in the absence of its conditions:
Althusser and Negri and the philosophy of primitive accumulation
Jason Read 261

PART IV The materiality of ideology, the primacy of politics 273

17 The impossible break: ideology in movement between philosophy and politics
Isabelle Garo 275
CONTENTS

18 The theory of ideology and the theory of the unconscious
   Pascale Gillot 289

19 Ideological interpellation: identification and subjectivation
   Rastko Močnik 307

20 'Es kömmt drauf an': notes on Althusser's critique of the subject
   Ozren Pupovac 323

21 Between the tenth and eleventh theses on Feuerbach:
   Althusser's return to new materialism
   Gal Kirn 335

Bibliography 352
Index of Works 368
Index of Names 370
Index of Concepts 374